

# VIETNAM COURIER

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5th Year

Up to March 20, 1968

**2,808 U.S. planes were  
downed in North Viet Nam**

## NORTH VIET NAM 2,800th U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN HANOI ON MARCH 17, 1968

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## SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F. ATTACK RELENTLESSLY IN ALL THEATRES OF OPERATIONS :

☆ 5 Provincial Capitals, About  
15 U.S. and Puppet C.P.s  
and Rear-Bases Stormed  
☆ 3 Enemy Battalions and  
Many Companies Wiped Out  
☆ Devastating Attacks on U.S.  
Road Convoys and Vessels

### QUANG TRI — THUA THIEN

In the **Khe Sanh** sector where Ta Con outpost was violently attacked on March 11, the noose was tightened around U.S. Marine positions. B-52 and tactical aircraft had to drop bombs less than one kilometre and about one hundred metres respectively without being able to take off the adverse pressure from U.S. casemates. *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported that from January 21, when the siege of Khe Sanh began, to March 13, the P.L.A.F. put out of action 4,120 enemy troops including 2,350 Yankees, captured many U.S. and puppet soldiers, downed, destroyed or damaged 218 planes and helicopters, seized about one thousand firearms and liberated 10,000 people.

Further east, in the sea-coast area, regional forces and guerrillas of **Gio Linh** and **Cam Lo** districts fought from March 1 to 20 over 10 battles, in which nearly 2,000 enemy soldiers were killed, wounded or captured (nearly three-quarters being U.S. Marines), 10 vessels and barges sunk, and 7 damaged, 11 aircraft downed and 20 tanks and armoured cars destroyed or seriously damaged.

In various engagements on March 11, 12 and 13, over 200 Yankees were killed or wounded. On March 14, a

landing craft laden with explosives was blown up near Dong Ha by P.L.A.F. fire.

In the South, the P.L.A.F. continued their encirclement of Hue, foiled many enemy's attempts to ease their pressure, and stormed many U.S. positions.

On March 8, 10 and 13, the guerrillas closed in upon the G.I.'s many times in the periphery of the city and inflicted upon them 790 casualties.

### WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX

In the Western High Plateaux which are also an important theatre of operation owing to their strategic position which controls all the coastal area of Central and South Trung Bo northwest of Saigon and the provinces in the north of that city, the P.L.A.F. mounted large-scale attacks on U.S. road convoys, enemy positions and bases in the major towns.

On Highway No 19 linking Qui Nhon port to Pleiku, a U.S. convoy escorted by tanks and armoured cars was ambushed by the P.L.A.F. on March 4 and two others on March 8: 70 vehicles were destroyed and 160 G.I.'s killed or wounded.

On Highway No 14, crossing the Western High Plateaux from North to South, a convoy of 140 lorries, tanks and armoured carriers of the 4th U.S. Division was intercepted on March 13 in Kontum province: 48 vehicles and 8 tanks were destroyed.

Further north, 5km West of the Kontum provincial capital, on the night of March 13, four blockhouses were levelled, the base of the 4th U.S. Division at Dakto (50km northwest of Kontum) was shelled, two companies of U.S. Para Brigade 173 were assaulted, Kontum itself received a heavy artillery pounding on the night of March 17: the airfield and the C.P. of the 24th "Tactical Sub-Division" (provinces of Kontum and Gia Lai) were hit.

At 150km to the South, the airfield at Ban Me Thuot town was also stormed on the night of March 13: a hangar was set afire, Western agencies reported.

Dalat city, 60km southeast of Ban Me Thuot, was attacked many times. The provincial security service was shelled on March 7. On the night of March 8, the Suoi Vang hydro-power station west of the city, serving the radar stations and local military organs, was destroyed.

(Continued page 7)



**Khe Sanh :** U.S. plane destroyed by P.L.A.F. artillery on March 1, 1968

## An Immoral and Intolerable Policy

**B**IG defeat in Viet Nam, scathing criticism in the U.S., strong opposition in the world: the eyes of history itself—are on that brave band of defenders who hold the pass at Khe Sanh and the area around it.

### PATHETIC EXHORTATIONS

Twice since mid-February last, President Johnson has reaffirmed his country's determination not to "capitulate in Viet Nam," a theme which has rapidly become a leit-motif in his numerous speeches.

At Fort Bragg where he was seeing off four thousand G.I.'s of the 82nd Division on their way to Viet Nam he declared dramatically that the U.S. would take up the mortal challenge flung at it in Viet Nam.

Addressing at El Toro base Viet Nam-bound units of the

17th Regiment of Marines, he exhorted his boys: "The attention of the nation and the world—the eyes of history itself—are on that brave band of defenders who hold the pass at Khe Sanh and the area around it."

He affirmed on board the aircraft-carrier *Constellation*: "Until freedom stands tall and strong in Asia, until this vast Pacific is a great community of peace, and until the gun and the knife are sheathed, until neighbours fear neighbours no more, Americans cannot rest, Americans cannot sleep."

Inaugurating the C-5A, a giant transport plane, at Marietta (Georgia) he bragged of U.S. might—nobody denies that the U.S. is the first imperialist power in the world—and after stressing that "without U.S. strength the forces of aggression would

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## WESTMORELAND'S TALENT

AS a high-ranking officer for forces in Vietnam, Westmoreland should be aware that it is very important to determine the direction and strategic aims of each phase of a war. However, at present, he has been helplessly lost his bearings in the war he is waging in Viet Nam. American military commentators say he is torn by most agonizing dilemmas: whether to give priority to rural areas which make up the major part of South Viet Nam and inhabited by the overwhelming majority of the population, or to urban centres in which are concentrated the vital organs of the U.S. and its allies; whether to continue the "search-and-destroy" strategy which has come to grief or to devise a new strategy; whether to hold out at any cost as he is trying to do at Khe Sanh, or to preserve his main forces, which means an evacuation from Khe Sanh; how to use U.S. troops and puppet troops which are regarded both as strategic

forces in this war of aggression, whether to assign (the protection of military bases and urban centres to the G.I.'s only — in which case there would be no more U.S. troops for offensive actions — or to commit them to the G.I.'s army to the job — where this army has proved its complete incapacity.

The general attack and widespread uprisings in South Viet Nam have upset the Pentagon's strategic plan and given rise to a situation utterly unfavourable to the aggressors. That is why Westmoreland's strategy is a strategic plight referred to by Western agencies; holding in hand a huge war machine never before available to any general, he is nevertheless completely impotent."

Quan Doi Nhan Dan  
(People's Army)  
March 12, 1968

## AN IMMORAL AND INTOLERABLE POLICY

(Continued from page 1)

triumph and the security of the U.S. would be imperilled" — created F.D. Johnson's "Great power involves great responsibility."

In a word, Johnson pays homage to the "mission" of his country in the "preservation of peace and freedom and order of the world" and to the U.S. Expeditionary Corps in Viet Nam, and calls — and this is what is aiming at — on the spirit of discipline and sacrifice of the "quiet American."

On the other hand, Dean Rusk and other close aides of the U.S. President hold that Hanoi "does not want to negotiate" and they reject U.S. efforts even before knowing of their outcome.

But neither passionate exhortations nor impudent affirmations can give Johnson a breathing-space through short it may be, even when he was taking a rest at Ike's in the California plateau, or spending his week-end at Puerto Rico in the marvellous Caribbean Sea.

## GROWING ANGER

SINCE many years, world opinion has not discredited its strong condemnation of Johnson's military and aggressive policy against the Vietnamese people. This disapproval has now turned into an irresistible and unquenchable opposition to measures carried out by the White House to get out of its quagmire in Viet Nam (new reinforcements of tactical military troops for South Viet Nam, frenzied war escalation against the D.R.V.N.). It has become over spread to new circles

and new areas. It was recently marked by a series of attacks against U.S. Embassies and Consulates in half a dozen countries. The number of "Western" nations demanding a prior unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from North Viet Nam has risen. Louder and louder were the raised voices everywhere to greet the splendid faces of arms and political successes of the N.F.L.

Even in the United States the struggle against Johnson's Viet Nam war has assumed proportions unknown so far. The man in the street, the poor tax-payer, who suffers enough from the repercussions of the war, turns a deaf ear to his president's appeals; he strongly opposes all requests for new reinforcements and insists on the complete withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam and bombing of North Viet Nam.

Even the dismissal of General Westmoreland, a nation-wide mobilization of the peace forces will take place by the end of next April. The overall situation portends no good for the White House. For example: 1,300 girl students have just staged a hunger strike against the Viet Nam War. The results of a recent poll taken among the students of Harvard University were particularly significant: only 10.8 per cent of them would "they" accept to join the army, 10 per cent would do it "with reservations," 20.5 per cent would resort to legal means to avoid enlistment, 20.4 per cent would prefer to leave the country, and 37.5 per cent of the army, 20 per cent would be ready to go to prison so as to avoid being sent to Viet Nam. With what is called a "hot summer" for the Black people

ROBERT KENNEDY's decision to run for President has rendered the race to the White House very hot. The Viet Nam war appears to be the issue number one in this year's presidential election. The bitter reverses of U.S. troops in Viet Nam have become a trump-card in the hands of all Johnson's opponents... Johnson has sustained a heavy failure in the New Hampshire primaries. He has a long way to go until the official elections, and there

THE "GOLD DOLLAR ON THE BRINK OF THE ABYSS" — the "gold crisis" now spreading in the capitalist world is closely linked with the particularly serious weakening of the U.S. dollar. Since the devaluation of the pound sterling on November 18, 1967, the U.S. dollar has become in fact the target of violent attacks... More than ever, the hegemony of the U.S. dollar in the capitalist monetary system is threatened.

The Johnson Administration has tried to maintain the rate of 35 dollars per ounce of gold. Various measures have been taken but can only save 20 million dollars per year for the American budget, while the U.S. spends every day two million dollars in the Viet Nam war... A

## RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

are a lot of dreadful things in store for him; possible new setbacks in U.S. expansionist forces, fresh waves of anti-Viet Nam war protest in the U.S., more black violence in U.S. cities, and finally the odds against his attempt to cling to his already tottering, presidential seat.

Nhan Dan  
(People's Daily)  
March 20, 1968

## THE DOLLAR ON THE BRINK OF THE ABYSS

bottomless, the war is a serious obstacle to the U.S. It has forced the Johnson Administration to devote its "Great Society" program and face on the other hand the accelerated depletion of its gold reserves. The U.S. dollar is now losing the world market's confidence... U.S. monopoly is well aware that the war of aggression against Viet Nam is one of the underlying causes of the serious deficit of the U.S. budget and the rapid depletion of its gold reserves. The U.S. dollar is now losing the world market's confidence... U.S. monopoly is well aware that the war of aggression against Viet Nam is one of the underlying causes of the serious deficit of the U.S. budget and the rapid depletion of its gold reserves.

Nhan Dan  
(People's Daily)  
March 19, 1968

ple question, the forthcoming months will be far from heartening for the U.S. Administration.

## IMMORAL AND INTOLERABLE

AT the Capitol, the atmosphere was visibly tense. The members of Dean Rusk to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to defend the foreign aid program landed him in a 6-hour oral controversy with senators on the Viet Nam problem. A debate in the Senate on civil rights was put off for another one suggested by filibuster and unanimously agreed upon, dealing also with the Viet Nam problem which lasted three hours, running.

Fulbright qualified as "mild" and void "the Congress resolution on what was called the "Tonkin Gulf incident" because it was "based on false reports" and he regretted to have backed it. Though taking up the cudgels for Johnson, Mansfield also reproached him with conducting the present war in Viet Nam. "We are in the midst of fighting a new kind of war," said he. Frank Church warned against a hunger strike against the Viet Nam war, and all difficulties over wider front. Vance Hartke was of the opinion that the Viet Nam war was bleeding the nation's resources just like a leech bleeds people to death. Eighteen Democratic Representatives asked for "a negotiated solution." Ex-ambassadors Reischauer and Cultural Stratton also called for a negotiated solution.

Johnson affirmed that "the enemy has been defeated in battle" after a battle, followed a fortnight after his state of the Union message, his words were contradicted by facts.

Johnson affirmed that the Saigon administration was consolidated after "three elections held in the midst of a reinforcement of the American threat of violence"; but today it is clear that the situation is mid-way.

These are no mere routine discussions or minor controversies. The question is to stop the war and, eventually, the way to stop it. The major principles so far used by the Johnson Administration as a screen for their aggression were all called again in question: the "commitments to the Saigon regime," even the "Congressional resolution" on the "Tonkin Gulf incident."

Under everybody's eyes the fierce attacks of the P.F.L.A. and popular uprisings throughout South Viet Nam have dealt a very hard blow to the "whole-body" doctrine of the U.S. and Johnson's bellicose policy.

Such scathing criticisms and bitter remarks on U.S. policy in Viet Nam uttered by the U.S. Congressmen in the midst of the election campaign are bad omen for Johnson.

## AND WHY?

It is accepted that Johnson, a lame and demoralized leader, would succeed in obtaining new contingents of troops and billions to throw at the Viet Nam war — of course not all that he has asked for. But he would have paid dear and will pay dearer for the war in Viet Nam. He is beyond any doubt. By his veiled or unveiled remarks, it is clearly understood that "Hanoi would have the war to the knees" through a difficult struggle in which they have the opportunities to starve the aggressors. Those who have no

QUANG LOI

VIET NAM COURIER

# THE NORTH — BIG REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

## D.R.V.N. GOVERNMENT PRESENTS GIFT TO SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES

IN early Spring this year, thrown into panic by the powerful blow dealt by the South Viet Nam people and armed forces, the U.S. aggressors and Thieu-Kieu clique committed monstrous crimes against the people in urban centres and ordered the army to intensify their occupation and thereby caused them untold sufferings.

In such a situation, the D.R.V.N. Government decided to send the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation a gift consisting of 50,000 tons of rice, 10 million metres of textile and 100 tons of medicines, and requested the N.F.L. to forward it to the South Vietnamese patriots and Liberation fighters in stricken localities.

A grand ceremony was held in Hanoi on March 14, 1968 to this effect. Vice Premier Le Thanh Nien, while handing the gift to Nguyen Van Tien, representing the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Central Committee in the D.R.V.N.

asked him to forward a letter from Premier Phan Van Dong to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Thio, President of the National Front for Viet Nam N.F.L. Central Committee. The letter read, "This gift is a token of the boundless love of the people and armed forces of the North, the solidarity and fighting spirit of the entire Vietnamese people who are determined to surmount all difficulties and hardships in their persevering struggle to win complete victory in response to the sacred appeal of President Ho Chi Minh at the beginning of 1968."

It is to be recalled that in the past years the solidarity and mutual aid of North Viet Nam to the kindred South Viet Nam have been many a time found expression in practical deeds: In November 1964, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee and the D.R.V.N. Red Cross Society sent a gift to flood-stricken people in South Viet Nam and in September 1966, the D.R.V.N. Red Cross Society did the same on a similar occasion.

## VIETNAMESE YOUTH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

OUR young folk have very promptly indeed taken up the American challenge.

On August 16, 1964, that is the day when the U.S. aggressors launched attacks against the D.R.V.N., in Hanoi alone, there were 50,000 of them and two weeks later, 200,000 — pledging readiness.

To fight (American aggression), fight with courage and join the army; To surmount all difficulties, boost production, work and studies in any circumstances; and to assume any task and go to any place the Fatherland wants them to.

Since then, the movement called "Three Readies" has been spreading, and has involved practically all North Vietnamese youths.

Indeed, in North Viet Nam, everybody is burning to take up arms to defend the Fatherland. But most eager are the revolutionary youth. To be declared eligible for the army, they must have no bad habits, have altered the date of their birth. One may cite the case of the brothers from Quang Ninh province who jointly signed an application for military service. There is also the case of the brothers in Ha Tay province who joined up on the same day and who are serving in the same unit.

Whereas in the past, the ill health, insisted on replacing his brother killed in the war, he is now, in the month which followed the events of August 1964, in Hanoi, 20,000 youths applied applications to join the army. Naturally, only a part of the applicants was given satisfaction. The rest had just to fight on the spot.

Like the youth of any countries, ours choose to go into the work, to learn, to study, through a difficult struggle in which they have the opportunities to starve the aggressors. Those who have no

In factories, at construction sites, on state farms, in public offices, hospitals, schools, etc., the "shock brigades" play the same role, that is to stand in front line. It is interesting to mention the movement which honours Nguyen Van Troi — a member of labour teams and puts in an amount of extra-work equivalent to that the hourly wage he has done.

Here again, the requirements of the spot-often too, they are in the van of the fighting, first of all in the fire-fight, in the people's militia of which they are the most committed members; in the assistance given to units of the regular army; in the maintenance of communication lines in their own localities which is the job of the whole people; in production where they choose the heaviest tasks.

Whereas in the past, the youth are always in the front line, in the assistance given to units of the regular army; in the maintenance of communication lines in their own localities which is the job of the whole people; in production where they choose the heaviest tasks.

The majority of our youth are in the front line, in the assistance given to units of the regular army; in the maintenance of communication lines in their own localities which is the job of the whole people; in production where they choose the heaviest tasks.

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# News in Brief

ON the occasion of the proclamation of Mauritius' independence, D.R.V.N. Premier Phan Van Dong sent a message of congratulations to the President of the Republic, Sir Ramoan, in which he also informed the latter of the D.R.V.N. Government's decision to recognize the new State.

IN his March 18, 1968 statement the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the D.R.V.N. condemned the Bonn government's collusion with the South Viet Nam war. The spokesman mentioned among other things the following facts: a plan of the Federal Republic of Germany to supply Viet Nam an squadron of 40 helicopters manned by crews from the West German air force; in addition to the 2,500 technicians and 250 pilots already serving in the U.S. expeditionary forces in South Viet Nam; conveying by the Bonn government of a conference to examine the "efficacy" of West German weapons used in South Viet Nam; increased aid of West Germany to the Saigon puppet regime amounting to 800 million marks. The spokesman expressed the indignation of the Vietnamese government and people at such steps and demanded that the Bonn government put an immediate end to these.

IN 13 years the purchasing and marketing co-operative department in the D.R.V.N. built nearly 12,000 stores in the delta countryside, the Midlands and the Highlands. In 1967 those stores supplied the peasants with 18,000 tons of lime fertilizer, some 20,000 small bamboo baskets in 17 provinces only, the number of poultry and pig sold to be kept for the development of breeding was respectively nearly 4 million and over one million.

THE State Committee for the Protection of Mothers and Children met recently to sum up its activities in 1967 and to discuss the work plan for 1968. Premier Phan Van Dong, Chairman of the Committee, was present.

He recommended that the Association's activities be concentrated on the "For our children's health" drive.

NGHIA LO has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Culture in 1967 as the first province of the Highlands for its activities in propagating culture and art among the masses. It possesses a cultural artistic groups comprising 6,000 artists from various nationalities, performing on a permanent basis. A large number of these artists have been sent to the U.S. to translate into the languages of the nationalities. One of them, Nguyen Van Tien, has been sent to the U.S. to produce and do away with bad customs and habits in daily life.

## YOUNG KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD

THE stretch of road entrusted to the care of the 15th Brigade of Young Volunteers in the North Vietnamese Republic, even at the cost of their lives. This following day people tried to cope with similar cases: an explosive charge was to be wrapped up into a cone shaped package then put with its base up under the bomb, which would be sent to the air before exploding. She had indeed noticed a certain interval to bite the tail of the demolition charge and that of the bomb. Her suggestion was accepted and she herself volunteered to try it on the first delayed-action bomb to be dropped by the Yankee that day. One should see that frail young girl digging and tearing at the enormous bulk of the bomb!

Where do the young people's courage and resourcefulness spring from? In the hearts of the young people, the beloved South of the beloved Fatherland, is all powerful. Nguyen Thi Lieu, a young girl with a sweet voice, is even "Three Readies" pledge.

MARCH 17, 1968:

# 2,800th U.S. PLANE DOWNED IN HANOI



Wrecks of U.S. A-1H plane downed in Hanoi.

ON March 17, 1968, at 2 a.m. a U.S. plane was downed by a Hanoi A-1H battery when it was diving-bombing a populous centre north of the city. It was an A-1H Intruder bomber of the U.S. Navy with electronic equipment for night bombing and for



Captured pilots:  
— Dale Walter Doss (left);  
— Edwin Arthur Schuman.

missions in cloudy weather. It was the 2,800th plane downed by the D.R.V.N. air defence since August 5, 1964, date of the first U.S. air raid on D.R.V.N. territory. Two airmen, Lieutenant Commanders Dale Walter Doss, 36, service number 591150, and Edwin Arthur Schuman, 36, service number 584738, were captured by the rural militia.

After heavy losses in massive day raids, the U.S. has resorted these last times to night raids in small formations. The exploits performed by our gunners, either people's army or militia, show that the day punishment is in store for the intruders.

— Nam Dinh Cathedral destroyed by U.S. air raid (March 15, 1968).  
— Vicar General Antoine Dinh Luu Nhan, 58, killed by U.S. bombs on March 15, 1968 at 00.40 hours.

## U.S. IMPERIALISTS DELIBERATELY BOMB CHURCHES AND CONVENTS IN PHAT DIEM AND NAM DINH

Editor's Note.—On March 10, 1968, the D.R.V.N. Commission for Investigation of the U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam and the National Liaison Committee of Viet Nam Catholics gave a press conference in Hanoi to denounce the U.S. bombing of churches and convents in Phat Diem and Nam Dinh. We reproduce here below large excerpts from statements issued by the two organizations.

### STATEMENT OF THE D.R.V.N. COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS' WAR CRIMES IN VIET NAM

AT 11.30 a.m. on March 11, 1968, two U.S. A-1H's, coming from the sea, dived low, and released eighteen 500 to 1,000-pound bombs on the precinct of the Phat Diem Catholic Mission, destroying the Convent of the Sisters Loving the Cross, causing damage to the Luu Phuong church and the surrounding area inhabited by Catholics and killing or wounding many Catholic nuns and believers.

The Convent of the Sisters Loving the Cross, which was built on a secluded area of about 2 hectares, was completely demolished. The nearby Luu Phuong church, the only building of Roman architecture in North Viet Nam, was seriously damaged. A whole Catholic hamlet in the surrounding was bombed out. In this savage attack, the U.S. aggressors killed 28 persons including Mother Superior Agnes Nguyen Thi Toan and four nuns. The victims were mostly women, and also included 11 children. There were 31 wounded including four nuns.

All traces of their crimes in Phat Diem had not been removed when four days later, at 00.40 hrs on March 15, 1968, the U.S. aggressors again sent in two 500-pound bombs on the compound of the Cathedral in the very centre of Nam Dinh city, killing Vicar General Dinh Luu Nhan of An Tong diocese, and grievously wounding 6 other people among them Father Paul Le Duc Trong of Nam Dinh parish and 70-year-old Brother Tran Kha. The Cathedral of the city was seriously damaged, the school and many buildings of the Catholic Mission destroyed.

These are new, extremely savage crimes perpetrated by the U.S. aggressors against the Vietnamese people, and particularly against the Catholics. Over more than three years of U.S. war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists have been deliberately bombing and strafing hundreds of churches and abbeys along with other civilian targets. All over North Viet Nam, according to preliminary statistics, 263 churches, cathedrals, abbeys and seminaries have been attacked by U.S. aircraft. Hundreds of Catholics, monks, nuns, and priests have been killed. In Kim Son—Phat Diem area alone, the U.S. aggressors have since June 18, 1965 destroyed 12 churches and 2 abbeys, killing or wounding over one hundred Catholics, mostly women and children.

The U.S. imperialists often claim that they are "defending religions," "respecting freedom of belief," etc., but the foregoing systematic crimes have thrown a strong light on their hypocrisy. To

carry out their aggressive designs against Viet Nam, they have shrunk from no barbarity, not even the destruction of the Vietnamese people's places of worship and the massacre of women, children, old folk and priests. These criminal actions of theirs are but frenzied death convulsions of wild beasts, and in no way can make good their humiliating defeats in the general offensive and simultaneous springings of the heroic South Vietnamese army and people.

The Commission for Investigation of the U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam strongly denounces to public opinion at home and abroad the U.S. aggressors' most inhuman destruction of churches and abbeys, and massacre of Catholic priests, monks, nuns and believers. It earnestly calls on all freedom, justice, and peace-loving people, all progressive organizations, and all also in the United States, to sternly condemn such crimes of the U.S. government, and to demand with insistent that the United States bring its unjust war of aggression in Viet Nam to an end, unconditionally stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

### STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF VIET NAM CATHOLICS

It is obvious that the fresh crimes of the U.S. imperialists have been committed in cold blood. The Luu Phuong Catholic compound which stands on a secluded area of about 2 hectares, has many buildings and

churches with high steeples and is surrounded by a bamboo hedge. In front of the Nam Dinh Cathedral is a public square; the Catholic compound is close to it and there is little doubt that it could be distinctly seen by the aggressors from afar.

With the crimes recently perpetrated in South Viet Nam towns and cities, the above-mentioned crimes expose the anti-religious character of the U.S. They exasperate the hatred of the Vietnamese Catholics and stiffen their determination to defeat the aggressors whose desperate situation is beyond remedy.

The National Liaison Committee of Viet Nam Catholics denounces to public opinion at home and abroad the atrocious crimes of the U.S. imperialists and calls on clergymen, religious organizations and Catholics all over the world including the U.S., to condemn the U.S. crimes more sternly and set more diligently to stay the bloody hands of the aggressors and, together with the Vietnamese people, inflict due punishment on them.

## FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION FRIENDSHIP VISIT TO VIET NAM

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a delegation of the French Communist Party paid a friendship visit to Viet Nam from March 2 to 11, 1968.

The delegation was composed of:  
— Jacques Duclos, political bureau member;  
— Etienne Fajon, political bureau member;  
— Henri Martin, Central Committee member;  
— Charles Fourniau.

The F.C.P. delegation took advantage of its stay in Viet Nam to make a general study of the country's situation and of the problems facing it. The delegation visited the Revolutionary Museum, the city of Hai Phong, an artillery unit defending Hanoi, industrial and agricultural production bases, public services and mass organizations. It got in touch with various sections of the Vietnamese population. It also called at the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

Permanent Mission in North Viet Nam. The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party gave a reception in honour of its French hosts.

A grand meeting was held during which Nguyen Van Tran, Secretary of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Hanoi Committee of the V.N.W.P., and Jacques Duclos took the floor.

The F.C.P. delegation had talks with a V.N.W.P. delegation composed of

Le Duan, C.C. First Secretary, Nguyen Duy Trinh, Political Bureau member, Nguyen Van Tran, member of the Secretariat of the C.C., Xuan Thuy, member of the Secretariat of the C.C., Hoang Tung, C.C. alternate member, Tran Chi Hien, deputy chief of the C.C. Foreign Relations Committee.

Following these talks, the two delegations signed a joint communiqué, large excerpts of which are given below.

## VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATIONS' JOINT COMMUNIQUE

(Excerpts)

DURING its meeting with President Ho Chi Minh, Comrades Le Duan, Truong Chinh, Phan Van Dong and other members of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and during its contacts with the Party organizations, workers, peasants, intellectuals, and fighters of the Viet Nam People's Army, the French Communist Party delegation, on behalf of the French people, has declared:

"We unreservedly stand by the side of the Vietnamese people because they are fighting for a just cause, for their freedom.

"We unreservedly stand by the side of the Vietnamese people because our two peoples are fighting against the same enemy: U.S. imperialism which schemes to rule and dominate the world."

The stay of the French Communist Party delegation has made it possible for it to obtain ample details about the crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and about the brilliant victories recorded by the Vietnamese people in their building of socialism in the North and their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation in both zones. The French Communist Party delegation expressed its profound admiration for the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialist aggression, and warmly welcomed the great victories they had recorded, notably the splendid exploits achieved by the heroic South Viet Nam armed forces and people since January 30, 1968.

The French Communist Party delegation strongly denounced and severely condemned the crime of aggression and the other monstrous crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists against the Vietnamese people, particularly the barbarous means they had used to ravage and massacre the civilian population in South Viet Nam since the powerful and widespread attacks and uprisings launched there recently by the people. The U.S. imperialists' aggression against the Vietnamese people constitutes at present the biggest crime against mankind.

The French Communist Party delegation underscored the international importance of the struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggressive imperialism, the most dangerous common enemy of the two peoples and of all peoples in the world. This struggle is an outstanding contribution to the defence of the security of the socialist camp and to the cause of national independence, social progress, democracy and territorial integrity, which is the cause of billions of world people. With the invincible strength of their national unity, with the sympathy, support and assistance of the socialist countries, of the working class of the capitalist countries, of the national-liberation movement and of all men of good will in the world, including the Vietnamese people, the Vietnamese people have recorded tremendous victories and will undoubtedly win total victory. They will fulfil successfully their task of liberating the North, liberating the South, and of achieving the peaceful reunification of their country. The French Communist Party and the French people regard every success of the Vietnamese people as their own. The

delegation reaffirmed the militant solidarity of the French Communist Party, the French working class, democrats and the vast majority of the French people with the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and the Vietnamese working class and people.

The French Communist Party affirms its full support for the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and for the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, which it regards as the just basis for the settlement of the Viet Nam problem, a basis consistent with the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. There can be no real peace without real independence. That is why the U.S. imperialists must cease unconditionally and permanently the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, withdraw all the U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, recognize the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation; and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

The Delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Delegation of the French Communist Party strongly condemn the activities of the United States in Laos and Cambodia. In Laos, the United States has intensified its military intervention, helped the rightwing troops to launch nibbling attacks on the liberated regions under the control of the *Vao Lao Haisat* and the other patriotic forces in Laos. In Cambodia, the United States has incited its satellites to repeatedly encroach upon the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and has tried to extend the war to this country. The two Delegations affirm their unqualified support for the struggle of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia for the cessation of aggression against Cambodia and strict respect for its independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity. They affirm their total support for the struggle of the Lao people for the cessation by the U.S. imperialists of all military intervention in Laos and strict respect for the independence, sovereignty, peace and neutrality of Laos.

On behalf of the Vietnamese working class and people, the Delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party expressed its gratitude for the warm support of the French Communist Party, the working class, intellectuals, large sections of people, all democratic and progressive forces and peace-loving militants in France for the fight of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The visit of the Delegation of the French Communist Party to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has been a complete success. It is certain that it will positively contribute to impelling forward the struggle of the French people against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. The visit still more vigorous support to the just cause of the Vietnamese people. It will be a fresh contribution to the strengthening of the militant solidarity between the two parties and peoples of Viet Nam and France.



# WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH VIET NAM IN THE WORLD

On the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the Day of National Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism (March 19) of the Vietnamese people, the peoples all over the world have held meetings, demonstrations, organized exhibitions and worked overtime in support of Viet Nam, or sent messages to Vietnamese organizations to express their solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. imperialists.

On the afternoon of March 19, at the people's Great Hall in Peking, over ten thousand people held a solemn meeting attended by many Chinese Party and Government leaders. The Delegation of South Viet Nam Youth and Valiant Fighters of U.S. Aggression now on a visit to China were also present at the meeting.

Chou En-lai, standing member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and Prime Minister of the State Council, delivered a speech, stressing: "Under the clearheaded leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, their great leader, the Vietnamese people holding aloft the banner of struggle against U.S. aggression, for national sal-

vation, have waged an extensive people's war. They have been stubbornly resisting the U.S. Yankees, the most wicked imperialists in the world, driving them and their quislings into a corner. Under very hard circumstances and relying on its own efforts, a support of 31 million people has not only victoriously resisted but also defeated the topmost imperialists in the world and won big victories. This is a wonderfully great achievement in the history of revolutionary wars of the world's peoples."

In Cuba, in the first three days of the Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam, over 200 meetings, talks on Viet Nam, and exhibitions in support of Viet Nam against U.S. imperialist aggression were held in six provinces. At a meeting on the afternoon of March 15, Raul Roa, member of the C.C. of the Cuban Communist Party and Foreign Minister, affirmed that the present struggle of the Vietnamese people was the vital center of the world revolutionary struggle... The Cuban people support the fighting trench of the Vietnamese fighters as their own.

The National Directorate of Cuban Revolution Defense Commission issued a state-

ment warmly hailing the victories of the South Vietnamese people and strongly supporting the statements of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and the Government of the D.R.V.N., and the open letter of Prof. Le Van Hao denouncing the crimes of the U.S. imperialists.

In Great Britain, on March 17, over twenty thousand Britons took part in progressive organizations in London took part in a demonstration against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam organized by the Viet Nam Solidarity Campaign. Over 80 West German students coming from Berlin also attended it.

The demonstrators carried South Viet Nam N.F.L. flags and posters condemning U.S. aggression in Viet Nam and marched in a 2 km long procession to the U.S. Embassy. Meanwhile hundreds of people staged a sit-in against the U.S. in Oxford Street.

A meeting held in Trafalgar Square was read a message from Lord Bertrand Russell, Honorary Chairman of the International War Crimes Tribunal. The message stressed that the only way to bring peace to Viet Nam is withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnamese territory.

## AMERICANS PROTEST AGAINST U.S. VIET NAM WAR

McKINLEY, a black American E4 corporal, Company A, Battalion 2/16, of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, recently left the U.S. Expeditionary Corps for a liberated area southwest of Saigon.

On February 7, 1968 he wrote a letter to all Black American troops fighting in South Viet Nam, calling on them to follow suit; he informed them that he had received good treatment in the liberated area, having an adequate supply of books and papers to read and radio facilities to listen to the news. He told his Black compatriots that their presence in South Viet Nam was not to defend the U.S.A., but to help to serve the U.S. imperialists' aggression there. They are the first to do the fighting and the last to get a job, said he. He recognized that the Vietnamese people's struggle for peace, independence, freedom and national reunification now was like what the American people did in the 18th century.

He suggested to the Black American troops in the U.S. army that if they want to escape death they must not take part in military operations, go to battle and prevent the rising up of the South Vietnamese people to overthrow the Saigon administration; if they are forced to go into action, they should cross over to the side of the N.F.L. as he has done or they should not fight the Vietnamese people.

On March 13, 3,500 students of Columbia University went on strike in protest against Johnson's war in Viet Nam. One hundred professors took part in this action. 239 professors signed a message calling on American youth to dodge draft and not to go and fight in this dirty war of aggression. They welcomed the stand of the American University's students who refused to join the army.

On March 6, 20 professors of theology at Chicago University signed a declaration pro-

testing against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam and supporting the students who opposed draft.

At the Brooklyn (New York) draft center on March 13, three American youths, Bob Cowlick, Norman Rosenberg and Peter Behr, handed back their draft-cards to the American authorities and said that the latter were seeking war and means to stifle the will of a people who long for freedom and independence; they said that Johnson must bear responsibility for all destruction and massacre in Viet Nam.

At a press conference in Washington on March 6, Prof. Howard Lin of Boston University, one of the staunch anti-Viet Nam war militants who recently came to Hanoi to be handed over to the three American armies released by the D.R.V.N., praised the U.S. humanitarian action of the D.R.V.N. Government, and denounced the Johnson Administration for concealing the truth on the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

## News from CAMBODIA

### Cambodian Royal Government Reiterates Support for Viet Nam

On the occasion of the Week of International Solidarity with Viet Nam, the Royal Government of Cambodia on March 18 issued a statement reaffirming its firm support for the just current struggle of the heroic fighters of Viet Nam against the U.S. aggressors and their accomplices.

The statement welcomed the recent victories of the Vietnamese people's national war resistance against the imperialists' aggressors and considered "these victories a strong encouragement to all countries and peoples who are struggling to recover and safeguard their independence."

It went on to say: "In spite of its overwhelming superiority in material

power, in spite of the use of most up-to-date weapons and methods of terror, the United States has now been forced to recognize its powerlessness in face of the determination of the Vietnamese patriots. The whole world is witnessing the invincible strength of a people who are defending their most sacred rights against an arrogant power which violates all international laws with a view to imposing its domination."

The statement called on all countries to step up their actions in support of the Vietnamese people and to demand that the U.S. respect international law and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

## News from LAOS

### Dry-Season Victories of Patriotic Armed Forces

In the first four months (November 1967-February 1968) the Lao people's armed forces and patriotic nationalist forces put out of action 9,028 enemy troops, a communiqué of the Lao People's Liberation Army High Command.

2 regiments and 8 battalions were overrun.

Compared with the last dry season, the enemy casualties in the first four months of this season increased by 3,494 and the number of prisoners or go-over soldiers was 6 times over.

The patriotic armed forces seized 2,416 firearms of various types or 925 pieces more than the total number captured last year; 66 aircraft were downed or destroyed, 14 war vessels sunk and a big quantity of ammunition and military equipment destroyed or seized. War areas occupied by the reactionary forces during their nibbling attacks after the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos were liberated and tens of thousands of people set free.

rain, they start a song, a dance or a sketch.

At present, the "Three Readies" movement embraces more than 2.5 million young men and women. The Vietnamese youth rightly take pride in it, just as the Vietnamese youth rightly take pride in their youth.

### TO THE READER

We are aware that there is a great interest in the movement in the working of our paper. We apologize for its shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

## P.L.A.F. ATTACK RELENTLESSLY...

(Continued from page 1)

### COASTAL PROVINCES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH TRUNG BO

N Oving Nam province, a position of Battalion 15 U.S. Brigade 195 in Quang Son district was attacked by the P.L.A.F. on March 11. 162 G.I.'s were reported killed or wounded, many aircraft downed, 14 aircraft downed and 2 tanks destroyed. In a P.L.A.F. attack on the night of March 6 against many enemy positions in Quang Nam province including the H.Q. of puppet Division 2, 206 soldiers, a puppet colonel and 3 U.S. "advisors" were killed or wounded, an ammunition dump blown up.

In the South, at Tay Hoa, the P.C. of Regiment 47, puppet Division 23 and puppet Battalion 3 of the same regiment were assaulted on the night of March 4: the C.P. was wiped out and 4 companies badly mauled.

Phan Rang town, 80 km south-southwest of Hanoi, was the target of a P.L.A.F. attack on the night of March 10: the residence of the province chief and a sub-sector C.P. in the periphery were hit.

In Binh Thuan province, the township of Phu Long where a sub-quarter C.P. was located, and a group of "strategic hamlets" 5 km northeast of Phan Thiet town were liberated by the P.L.A.F. on March 11: about one hundred puppet troops were killed, wounded or captured. The following day, 2 battalions of puppet Regiment 41, supported by 4 companies of regional troops, intercepted by the P.L.A.F. upon their leaving Phan Thiet town to reattack Phu Long, had to fall back after having one battalion, one company and three platoons wiped out.

### SAIGON AREA

A ROUND Saigon, the P.L.A.F. were very active. In the Northeast of the city, the night of March 13, a U.S. convoy of 30 vehicles was intercepted at 14 km from Saigon, while at Di An, the rear base of Brigade 2, U.S. Infantry Division 1, was pounded. Northwest of Tay Hoa, 35 km from Saigon, after 30 minutes of a fierce engagement with puppet troops in the midst of a "mopping-up" operation, the P.L.A.F. wiped out Battalion 1, puppet Regiment 48, whose

commander, 3 U.S. "advisors" and nearly 300 men were killed, wounded or captured, and all weapons seized by the guerrillas.

In the northwest, a column sent to the rescue of a post in Hoa Binh district was intercepted on March 4, near the gulf of Saigon, and lost 12 vehicles (including tanks and armored cars) and 4 enemy aircraft were downed.

In Cu Chi district well known for its developed guerrilla warfare, the base of U.S. Division 23 at Dong Du, 30 km from Saigon, was blasted by P.L.A.F. artillery on March 5 and 6. The local guerrillas, from February 27 to March 8, put out of action 600 enemy troops including 550 G.I.'s, captured 14, destroyed or damaged 21 tanks and armored cars, downed 18 aircraft, destroyed 2 heavy guns and seized about 50 firearms.

West of Saigon, the H.Q. of puppet Division 23 at Tay Hoa, 30 km from Saigon, was shelled on March 14. South of Saigon, on the long Thu river linking that big port to the sea, attacks were successively mounted against enemy freighters and war vessels. On March 6, a 10,000-ton cargo boat was damaged 1 km from Saigon. Two days later, 20 km from the city, a P.L.A.F. shelling set fire to a 12,000-ton tanker which burst for 17 hours running. On March 9, a guerrilla attack on a river patrol convoy sent to the bottom an enemy vessel and on the following day, two L.C.M. landing craft were burnt sink from Saigon.

But the next day there wasn't to be any training session. We were to go into action. Joy was in my heart, but also a small amount of worry. Victory was of course certain, but we had to make it a complete, total one. Besides, I thought of my baby child. What would become of her if I should die in action? But the thought didn't linger long in my mind. Now was the time for action, a truly historic period, "one that happens only once in a thousand years." How could I fail in my duty, as one of the 31 million staunch defenders of the fatherland? Uncle Ho's words were as vivid in my mind as ever. I asked a relative to look after my child, then went and got prepared for the battle.

That very night, the Liberation troops attacked the residence of the province

### MEKONG DELTA

FROM March 4 to 8, a counter raid in the northeast of My Tho town, the guerrillas put out of action 838 enemy troops including 450 G.I.'s, downed 11 planes and choppers, sank 9 war vessels and craft and destroyed 6 heavy guns and 7 vehicles. The sub-sector C.P. was shelled on the night of March 17 together with two other C.P.'s at Sa Dec and near Can Tho town, and two military targets. On the night of March 13, many aircraft were destroyed at Tra Noc airfield near Can Tho and a post in Tra Vinh province defended by 70 puppet soldiers overrun. Also in Tra Vinh, from March 10 to 12, the guerrillas swept away a whole system of military posts in a populated region.

## WE STORMED BEN TRE!

EDITOR'S NOTE. — In the resistance against American aggression, the women of Viet Nam have been playing no small part. In the South in particular, the "long-haired army" is feared and respected by both the Americans and their puppets. One of its members, Chi Tam of Ben Tre, filed a correspondent's dispatch for the Gial Phong Press Agency about her participation in the march on Ben Tre staged by women of surrounding areas, on the occasion of the Tet offensive by the revolutionary forces.

It was New Year's day. The afternoon I went to a meeting, where I learned about the Front's order for an uprising. It was big news for us, the women. For over a month now, we had been getting ourselves ready for such an event. From white-haired grandmothers to little girls, everybody wanted to join. We had each a bamboo spear, and whenever we had a little spare time, we would sharpen it and re-sharpen it and strengthen its ligatures. And every afternoon, at a signal given by means of a few beats of the tocin, we would go to the field where we would assemble in small groups and train hard.

But the next day there wasn't to be any training session. We were to go into action. Joy was in my heart, but also a small amount of worry. Victory was of course certain, but we had to make it a complete, total one. Besides, I thought of my baby child. What would become of her if I should die in action? But the thought didn't linger long in my mind. Now was the time for action, a truly historic period, "one that happens only once in a thousand years." How could I fail in my duty, as one of the 31 million staunch defenders of the fatherland? Uncle Ho's words were as vivid in my mind as ever. I asked a relative to look after my child, then went and got prepared for the battle.

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chief, the offices of the provincial administration, the radio station, the post office and other key points. Everywhere, the enemy was put to flight.

The following morning, the long-haired army went into action. It was an unforgettable sight, one that irresistibly evoked in the minds of the older generation the seething days of the August 1945 Revolution, when a forest of gold-starred red flags appeared in the city of Ben Tre!

For several years, I had been participating in protest marches on the town, and the joy and excitement of victorious battles was not unfamiliar to me. But never before had I experienced such exhilarating feelings as now! It was a kind of immense and overwhelming enthusiasm.

At the Ca Loc bridge, where the police used to stop columns of demonstrators, pounding on women and old folk with iron-tipped clubs and cudgels, we were no longer troubled by them. Some of those most wicked agents of the Saigon regime had received the punishment: their bodies were lying by the roadside, like carcasses of mud dogs. It was fully deserved retribution for those who had never hesitated to shed the blood of their compatriots in the hope of getting a few more dollars from their Yankee masters.

As we approached the city, more and more people joined our column, which surged ahead with the power and

impetus of a tidal wave, banners flapping in the wind, signs and placards raised high. At intervals, we heard the clatter of gunfire in the distance. It was the Liberation troops in pursuit of fleeing remnants of the enemy. The people in the "strategic hamlets" also rising up the city had also surounded and broken the enemy's grip. Drums beating, flags flying, they joined us as we streamed into the city.

We immediately set about hunting down the agents of the puppet regime, who had disbanded and taken refuge in the back alleys. Those "demons," as the people call them, though armed to the teeth, were only chicken-hearted rascals. When caught, they dropped their true colors and showed their true knees as shameless cowards.

Now the entire city had fallen into the hands of the people. Together with a group of other women, I braved for the quarters of the puppet engineers, near Go Dong bridge, about a mile from the city. The company of puppet soldiers which were garrisoned there had fled to the city but had fallen into an ambush at Ap Phu: none of them escaped.

And so we stormed their abandoned quarters and took over all arms, ammunition, machinery and equipment. These were piled up on lorries and taken to the liberated areas. My team, composed of myself and ten other women, got hold of a vehicle. We loaded it full of guns and ammunition and... pushed it along the road, for none of us knew how to drive. This comic episode of epic happenings lasted only a few minutes, for very soon a contraband driver came to our help.

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P.L.A.F. men and the people — "Fish and water".

## N.F.L. CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism (March 19) the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. issued an appeal to the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam making plain the significance of that historical day which was initiated 18 years ago (\*).

The appeal recalled the great victories scored by the South Viet Nam people and armed forces in the past year, chiefly those since the Lunar New Year's day. The appeal wrote:

"More firmly than ever, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have kept the initiative of military and political offensives thanks to the comprehensive strength of an invincible people's war. They have gained control of the overwhelming part of the immense countryside and constantly encircled and threatened the major cities, towns and townlets... The front of national union has been expanded and consolidated, many patriotic organizations have been set up, including the Alliance of Forces for National Independence, Democracy and Peace. They are contributing their material and moral strength to the earth-shaking struggle of the entire people. We have won big victories which constitute most solid bases for complete victory."

The Central Committee of the N.F.L. denounced the barbarous crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen against the people in South Viet Nam towns and cities and the persistence of the Johnson Administration in intensifying and expanding its war of aggression in Viet Nam. The appeal said:

"The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. earnestly calls on the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the governments and peoples of the national independent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and other governments and peoples in the world to condemn severely and in time, and take drastic actions to check every scheme of war escalation of the U.S. imperialists, and demand that the latter stop immediately their criminal acts against the South Vietnamese people."

The Central Committee of the N.F.L. pays tribute to the militant solidarity between the Vietnamese people, the Cambodian people under the leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia, and the Lao people under the leadership of the *Neo Lao Haksat*. The C.C. of the N.F.L. expresses its thanks to peace and democratic organizations and progressive personalities in various countries and hopes that they will step up their movement to expose the aggressive and odious nature of the U.S. imperialists and to support the Vietnamese people. The C.C. of the N.F.L. "particularly appeals to the legitimate pride taken by the progressive American people in their traditional love for justice and freedom." It hopes that for the sake of that noble ideal, of the genuine interests of the U.S. and of their own interests, they will stand up to struggle more vigorously against the unjust policy of aggression of the U.S. ruling circles, and demand that the Johnson clique of war maniacs stop sending more American youths to a useless death in Viet Nam and cease immediately their aggressive war there."

The C.C. of the N.F.L. "hails the insight of the French Government and the governments of many other countries in the world who have correctly pointed to the root cause of the current war in Viet Nam, raised their protest against the U.S. Government's policy of war intensification and expansion, and demanded that the U.S. withdraw its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam and respect the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam as stipulated by the 1954 Geneva Agreements."

The appeal of the N.F.L. C.C. concluded: "In the light of the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., with the correct people's war line, under the clearheaded leadership of the N.F.L., with the invincible strength of the 14 million South Vietnamese people and the all-sided support of the 17 million kith-and-kin in the North and the sympathy and support from the world people, we will win final victory in whatever eventualities."

(\*) See Viet Nam Courier No 156, March 18, 1968.

SINCE late February, the Johnson Administration has found itself mired down in a heated debate about Westmoreland's request for reinforcements to South Viet Nam supported by Wheeler.

At the beginning of this month, 10,500 men were taken from the strategic reserves in the U.S.; 50,000 more are on their way to South Viet Nam, and the ceiling of 525,000 men will soon be reached. However, according to leaks in the American press, Westmoreland, who told Congress three months ago that victory was at hand and that the "boys" would be back in two years, is asking for 206,000 more men in order to save the situation. An eloquent evidence of American failure, and also of the obstinacy of the men in Washington! Each setback is followed by a sharp increase in the number of troops, which will lead to an even more serious failure!

Already vigorous opposition has been voiced by broad strata of the American people, especially the youth and students, whose very lives are threatened. "Career" officers have preferred to go to jail or lose their seniority benefits rather than have anything to do with the Administration's immoral and illegal undertaking. Many young Americans have taken refuge in Canada or Sweden. Demonstrations have been staged before the White House and the following question put to Johnson: "Why send tens of thousands more to a useless death in Viet Nam?"

## Increase in American Effectives in South Viet Nam? — A Fruitless Job

The people's opposition has exacerbated ever more powerfully in Congress. Many Senators and Representatives are apprehensive of the grave risks involved in a new escalation of the war. They demand that Congress be consulted on any American reinforcement in Viet Nam.

However, the primary question for the American aggressors is where to find the additional troops? Could they strip the other fronts? That would mean to upset the Pentagon's "global strategy" and run very serious risks for U.S. imperialist interests. To launch a massive mobilization? This would spark off popular discontent and bring grief to the mill of the opposition in an election year. To call up reserves in the National Guard, swell the ranks of the standing army, cancel draft deferments, reduce the interval between the G.I.s' tours of duty in Viet Nam? None of these could be called a satisfactory solution.

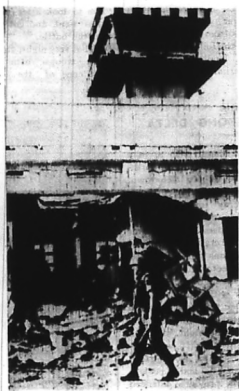
Besides, the money question is a tough one, even for the "affluent" United States. One hundred million dollars per day — that is the lowest estimate of the cost of this war,

the most burdensome in U.S. history according to the press. One more division sent to Viet Nam would mean two billion dollars' increase in the already inflated war budget. Johnson will have to ponder very carefully over the matter, the more so since the war has been recognized as one of the main causes for the present gold flight from the U.S. and an eventual devaluation of the dollar.

On account of its mulish and warlike nature, the present American administration does not seem willing, at least for the time being, to give up its aggressive war in spite of all difficulties. But will a mere beefing up of the American expeditionary corps save the Pentagon's saboteurs from a debacle?

The American war in Viet Nam is irremediably lost, such is the opinion held by many American observers — Wayne Morse, Walter Lippmann, the editor of the *Wall Street Journal*... Recent events in Viet Nam, where the Americans have been stripped of all initiative in spite of their 1,200,000 troops, must have instilled a certain dose of realism into even the staunchest believers in American "unimaginable power!"

As admitted by Westmoreland himself, the American expeditionary corps in Viet Nam has been driven on to the defensive since the Tet onslaught of the revolutionary forces. This is beyond retrieve. All American and puppet bases and positions, including Saigon, were within the range of the Liberation troops' artillery. At a time when U.S. morale and combativeness is at its lowest, and the puppet army is disintegrating, the sending of American reinforcements will not stop up the gap but simply supply more fodder to the Liberation troops' cannon! Isn't it a well established fact that ever since 1965, every rise in American effectives has resulted in greater American casualties, without the slightest improvement in the situation? The despatch of the 200,000-odd more Americans to Viet Nam would further Americanize the war and further exacerbate the contradiction between the Vietnamese nation as a whole and the American neo-colonialists. The collapse of the house of cards so painstakingly put together by the Americans at the cost of so much time and money will be all the quicker!



Control tower of Tan Son Nhat airfield attacked by P.L.A.F. on February 18, 1968.